

Iowa Fire Service & Emergency Response Council

Meeting Minutes July 22, 2020 Fire Service Training Bureau

Council Members Present

Justin Adams, Chair - *IA Association of Professional Chiefs*

Jeff Kling, Vice Chair - *Public member*

Mike Bryant - *IA Association of Professional Firefighters*

Thomas Craighton - *Emergency Medical Services*

Ellen Hagen - *IA Fire Chiefs Association*

Pam Kenkel - *Public member*

Lonni Koch - *IA Firefighters Association*

Scott Kovarna - *IA Association of Professional Firefighters*

Alicia Lidtke - *IA Firefighters Association*

Ray Reynolds - *IA Association of Professional Fire Chiefs*

State Fire Marshal and FSTB Staff Present

Dan Wood - *State Fire Marshal*

John Kraemer - *FSTB Bureau Chief*

Jim Kenkel - *FSTB Special Programs Manager*

Absent:

Deb Krebill, Iowa Fire Chiefs Association (EXCUSED)

Joe Mullen - *Iowa Workforce Development, Ex-Officio member (EXCUSED)*

Guests:

Kim Fensterman - Kirkwood Community College

Call to Order:

Chairman Adams called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve Agenda by Thomas Craighton; second by Jeff Kling. Approved.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve Minutes by Jeff Kling; second by Ray Reynolds. Approved

Community College Report (Kim Fensterman):

- Most of the Community Colleges are back, following social distance and mask guidelines.
- Iowa Lakes, Kirkwood, DMACC, and Iowa Central still offering fire science programs.
- CITA/Kirkwood fire school is cancelled for 2020.
- Offering hybrid learning but struggle with how to do virtual training
- Discussed the struggle of setting tuition fees for hybrid learning

IaSFSI Report - Thomas Craighton:

- Looked at the FFA Enrichment Center at DMACC in Ankeny to host the 2020 convention following social distancing guidelines. The Board will be meeting to determine whether they will have it at all this year.
- No longer have a PayPal account. Membership is paid by check only.
- Looking into building a new ADA compliant website.

SFM Update (SFM Dan Wood):

Arson & Explosives Bureau

- 60 explosives related investigations so far this year
- 20 fire fatalities – down from last year
- Increase in number of call-outs
- One retirement – will not fill position immediately due to COVID-19 pandemic impact on budget

Fire Prevention Bureau

- Over 3000 inspections
- No CMS inspections since March resulting in a loss of \$60,000/month to the SFM budget
- If inspections do not resume by mid-October will have to start laying people off
- One retirement in Fort Dodge – will not fill position immediately due to COVID-19 pandemic impact on budget
- Will start adopting new NFPA Codes and Administrative Codes in the Fall

Building Code Bureau

- 673 plans reviewed
- \$1.14 billion in construction costs
- Three people will have retired by fall 2020 and can't replace those positions immediately (due to COVID-19 impact on budget), leaving only three positions that will need to be doing the work of 6.

Electrical Bureau

- Electrical Bureau survives on permitting and licensing fees of electrical contractors. They are doing very well.
- Adopting 2020 NEC January 1, 2021

Fireworks update

- A letter was sent to fireworks vendors stating that an inspection would be required before they be allowed to open. Legislators didn't like that and created a new rule that allows them to open before they are inspected.
- Image Trend training for anyone wanting to do inspections available on the SFM website
- Six confirmed injuries, no deaths
- A fireworks stand that burned down in the state appears to be incendiary, but investigation is ongoing.
- Legislative Bills – many did not pass, but the bill that allows fire departments to donate used equipment passed.

FSTB Update (Bureau Chief Kraemer):

Staff Update

- Retirement of Jim Kenkel, Special Programs Coordinator – will not fill position right away due to COVID-19 impact on budget.

Budget Update

- Budget is status quo
- Volunteer Firefighter Training Fund: Funds were re-appropriated with an additional \$50,000 that will be used for FSTB moving expenses and paying lease off at Iowa State University.
- Paul Ryan Firefighter Memorial Safety Fund: Varies based on sales of firefighter license plates.
- Volunteer Firefighter Income Tax Check-Off Fund: Varies based on economic climates and is shared with the Veterans Fund.
- NFA Grant – Re-funded the \$20,000 state training grant for fiscal year 2021 – will be used to offer more advanced level classes.
- Fire Equipment Revolving Loan Fund
 - Great interest in loans for new and used apparatus
 - Fund is now down to approximately \$200,000 from over \$800,000 in 2018
 - Fire departments/municipalities have done a good job of paying back the loans.

Field Programs Report –2019 Annual Data presented via PowerPoint

Certification Program Report – 2019 Annual Data presented via PowerPoint

- The FSTB's goal is to be dually accredited by both IFSAC and ProBoard by end of 2020

Certification Pass/Fail rates

- Have seen significant improvement after E7 roll-out and implementation of the FSTB's "Trident Approach"
- Percentages were not good in 2017 and 2018, but now seeing good preliminary pass/fail data for 2019 and 2020.
- Now have a field on the Certification Exam Registration form to include the name of the instructor so FSTB can track and calculate pass/fail rates for FSTB instructors, in-house instructors, and those that chose to "challenge" the exams.
- The FSTB has no authority over those that choose to teach in-house classes or those that are in-house instructors, but FSTB wants ALL instructors to succeed and will share teaching materials with instructors upon request.

Special Programs Report – 2019 Annual Data presented via PowerPoint

- The 2021 97th Annual State Fire School will be held in Ames again, barring any public health emergency

Action item:

- John Kraemer will email board the justification for the increase in training hours for FF1, FF2 and HazMat Awareness and Operations.

AFG Grant Update

- Mobile Training Props Purchased and Deployed.
- Tactical Equipment Trailers Deployed to Sheldon, Iowa Falls, Kirkwood CC, Red Oak, FSTB, Fremont/Cedar Township. (Thomas Craighton noted “a big thank you to Mark Neff, Jim Kenkel, and AJ Plach for completing the grant project”)
- Fire Vent Prop received and curriculum and in-service training scheduled
- Car Fire Prop received and implemented
- SCBA RIT Trailer ordered to replace MOBAT trailer, delivery expected by December 31, 2020
- Two pump panel simulators ordered – delivery expected by early October 2020

Publicly acknowledge Jim Kenkel’s retirement celebration is on July 23, 2020 at the FSTB. Thank you for your dedicated service to the FSTB.

- John Kraemer and Dan Wood will be touring the regional training facilities to determine how they are used, who uses them, condition they are in, etc.

Action item:

- Ray Reynolds requested that a follow-up report of the findings be sent to the board members. John Kraemer will write the report and send it out.

Old Business:

- Fire/EMS/Law Enforcement equipment donation
- Draft letter to ISU – did not have to send it out – Ray Reynolds said he was frustrated that he, as a board member, and the Council were not informed and involved in the decisions. Justin Adams, Mike Bryant concurred. Bureau Chief Kraemer stated that due to significant and fast-moving timelines he and SFM Wood were not able to control the messaging/time-frame about the move. ISU accepted the notice of FSTB departure from campus.
- The FSTB requested \$150,000 from the legislature for moving expenses, but were denied. Moving expenses for the FSTB were covered by donation funds made to the FSTB and DPS.
- Update of Revolving Loan Fund Application – John Kraemer suggested that we look at updating the application as a work group – create online PDF. Keep this on the agenda for next time.

New Business:

- Alicia Lidtke, Thomas Craighton, and Deb Krebill were re-appointed by the Governor and will continue to serve on the council for another term. Congratulations!
- Justin Adams reminded everyone of Jim Kenkel’s retirement on July 23, 2020 at the FSTB.
- FSTB Move – Bureau Chief Kraemer
 - Working through technology in classroom – video-conferencing capability
 - Still working to settle into the new facility and understanding Camp Dodge processes
 - Have access to classrooms all over Camp Dodge; have housing/rooms available; may be able to host fire school at Camp Dodge at some point in the future – proposal of new convention center to be built by the Gold Star Museum
 - Still need to contract for cleaning services
- Grand Opening Ceremony – August 12, 2020 – 10:00 am
 - Historic event – media invited
 - Governor Reynolds, and other local dignitaries will be present to help with ribbon cutting
 - Tours and refreshments after the ceremony

Other Business:

Fireworks Grant Application

- Have \$535,000 in the Fireworks Grant Account
 - spent money on public safety messaging (TV, billboards, etc.) from ZLR
- Application period opened June 1, 2020, closed June 30 2020
- Received 7 requests totaling nearly \$67,000

Fireworks Grant Applications Received and Disposition:

- Clive FD asking for \$26,354.03 for ambulance power cot

Motion:

Motion by Ray Reynolds to deny because it does not meet appropriate criteria for fireworks prevention education fund. Seconded by Thomas Craighton.

- Justin Adams argued that the request does fit the lower tier (level 6) criteria allowing for up to \$2,000
- Jeff Kling argues that they did not submit a request for the lower level
- Hagen said that she could get behind a \$2,000 grant

Friendly Amendment:

Ray Reynolds requested a friendly amendment to the motion that if they could secure funding for the remaining amount within the grant cycle, we could guarantee funding of \$2,000. Seconded by Craighton. Motion Carries.

- Dubuque FD asking for \$22,177.50 for mobile video conferencing presentation system

Motion:

Motion by Thomas Craighton that the \$22,177.50 request by Dubuque FD be accepted. Seconded by Hagen. Motion Carries – application approved.

- Indianola FD asking for \$2,080 for Surface Pro computer for inspections

Motion:

Motion by Reynolds to fund Indianola FD with \$2,080 for computer for inspections. Seconded by Hagen. Motion Carries – application approved.

- Mason City FD asking for \$6,500 for Blue Beam plan review software/projector

Motion:

Motion by Thomas Craighton to deny funds for the purchase of software/projector because the plan is not specific enough to meet criteria. In addition, SFM already has plans that can be previewed and downloaded from the SFM website. Seconded by Ray Reynolds. Application denied.

- Mason City asking for \$1,000 to pay for cellular data for a year

Motion:

Motion by Reynolds to deny funding. Seconded by Craighton. Application denied.

- Ottumwa FD asking for \$4,125.00 for extinguisher training demonstrator

Motion:

Motion by Craighton to approve funding. Seconded by Kling. Application is approved.

- Sioux City FD (Part 1) asking for 2,399 for an ATF indoor magazine storage unit for storage of fireworks and other similar products/objects

Motion:

Motion by Craighton to approve funding. Seconded by Reynolds. Kovarna abstained. Application approved.

- Sioux City FD (Part 2) asking for \$4,000 for PSA campaign

Motion:

Motion by Reynolds to approve funding with a note that “this is exactly the purpose of the grant and requested that this be documented in the grant notes.” Seconded by Kling. Application approved.

Friendly amendment:

Reynolds would like to add an additional \$1,000 for a total of \$5,000 to be sure there is sufficient money for this program.

- Waukee FD (Part 1) requesting \$2,000 for smooth bore nozzles (x3), and 1 set of tips for master stream

Motion:

Motion by Thomas Craighton to accept the request for \$2,000. Seconded by Kling. Application approved.

- Waukee FD (Part 2) requesting \$7,800 for safety campaign message – free first-aid kit give-away

Motion:

Motion by Ray Reynolds to approve funding for \$7,800. Seconded by Hagen. Application approved.

Note from SFM Wood – Asked that the IFSER Council members go back to their respective associations and let them know of the need for continued support of this fund and to help increase applications for receiving funds from it.

Action item:

Justin Adams suggested that the Council brainstorm ideas for applying the Fireworks Grant money to other programs in the future, to ensure that money is not taken away from the grant.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Hagen. Seconded by Lidtke. Motion carries.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Next meeting – November 12, 2020

